



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	PINEDALE, WY	Accident Number:	SEA91TA03
Date & Time:	01/25/1991, 0820 MST	Registration:	N8372Z
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-34	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Public Aircraft		

Analysis

On January 25, 1991, a Piper PA-34, N8372Z, was substantially damaged while landing at Ralph Wenz Field, Pinedale, Wyoming. The pilot reported that an aircraft in front of his made a go-around because he could not positively identify the snow-covered runway. The accident pilot stated that he aligned the aircraft parallel to, but about 80 feet left of the runway and landed the aircraft off the runway, adjacent to a snow bank. The landing gear collapsed and the fuselage and stabilator sustained structural damage. The flight originated from Big Piney, Wyoming, and was enroute to Pinedale.

No additional information is available.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to attain proper runway alignment during landing. A contributing factor was a snow covered runway.

Findings

Occurrence #1: GEAR COLLAPSED
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

1. (F) AIRPORT FACILITIES, RUNWAY/LANDING AREA CONDITION - SNOW COVERED
2. (C) PROPER ALIGNMENT - NOT ATTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

On January 25, 1991, a Piper PA-34, N8372Z, was substantially damaged while landing at Ralph Wenz Field, Pinedale, Wyoming. The pilot reported that an aircraft in front of his made a go-around because he could not positively identify the snow-covered runway. The accident pilot stated that he aligned the aircraft parallel to, but about 80 feet left of the runway and landed the aircraft off the runway, adjacent to a snow bank. The landing gear collapsed and the fuselage and stabilator sustained structural damage. The flight originated from Big Piney, Wyoming, and was enroute to Pinedale.

No additional information is available.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Age:	
Airplane Rating(s):	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Unknown Unknown	Last FAA Medical Exam:
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:
Flight Time:		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N8372Z
Model/Series:	PA-34 PA-34	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	
Landing Gear Type:		Seats:	0
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	4750 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	0 Hours	Engines:	0 Unknown
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	
Operator:	DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Unknown	Condition of Light:	Not Reported
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	0 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	-18°C / -18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BIG PINEY, WY (BPI)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:	PINEDALE, WY (PNA)	Type of Clearance:	
Departure Time:	0000	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	0 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	Unknown
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	Unknown
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	DEBRA J ECKROTE	Report Date:	12/03/2007
Additional Participating Persons:			
Publish Date:	01/31/2018		
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).